

Forestry Workgroup Updates

3/5/14

2013 Forest Buffer Progress

State	Miles (June 2012–July 2013)
Delaware	0
Maryland	16
New York*	6
Pennsylvania	137
Virginia	38
West Virginia	5
TOTAL	202

= 22% of annual target (900 miles/year)

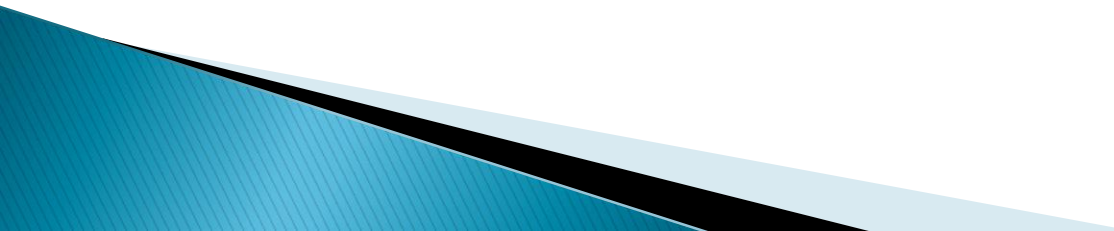
Note: CREP was closed to new enrollments Oct. 2012–May 2013 due to expired Farm Bill

Data provided by state FWG contacts to USFS
* NY number is draft, to be confirmed

New Farm Bill passed!

- ▶ CRP/CREP will remain available; national CRP acreage cap will be decreasing from 32 million acres in 2014 to 24 million acres in 2017
 - ▶ Program regulations are being drafted and will be available for public comment sometime in the coming months
 - ▶ Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative “CBWI” from 2008 Farm Bill replaced by Regional Conservation Partnership Program, competitive on a national scale
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Forest Buffer Updates

- ▶ Final Status Paper now posted for sharing
 - ▶ Look for feature story on forest buffers in March Bay Journal newspaper
 - ▶ Con't
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Forest Buffer Updates

- ▶ Forest Buffer Leadership Summit – TBD May (or June) 2014
 - ▶ Forest Buffer Task Force – high level, appointed by USDA–EPA with fed–state–ngo representation
 - ▶ Forest Buffer Roundtable – April (or May) 2014, field level practitioners/innovators to draft recommendations for Task Force consideration (*NFWF grant–Alliance for the CB, Potomac Conservancy, Stroud Water Research Center*)
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Draft State WIP Milestones 2014–2015

- ▶ States have posted Draft documents that summarize
 - Achievements on 2012–2013 Milestones
 - New 2014–2015 Milestones
 - Accessible:
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/tmdl/ChesapeakeBay/EnsuringResults.html?tab2=3>
- ▶ USFS will provide Forestry sector review and comment on these documents by March 15; if you have suggestions, send to Sally Claggett

Forest conservation—

- cross-check acreage information with the Bay-wide protected lands layer from 2013
- still tracking both high-value forest and other forest under permanent protection.
- further refinements on the forest conservation goal may result through the process to develop Management Strategies for the forest conservation goal in the Bay Agreement.

UTC tracking—

- will need to be tracking actual acres of UTC increase
 - we need to start to build baseline information for contributing localities
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